

above the floor of the rear end. The integrated extendable load floor assembly also includes a load floor operatively cooperating with the rails for sliding movement therealong and to close a longitudinal end of the cargo area.

Please replace the pending paragraph [0018] on page 3 of the Specification with the following:

Referring now to the drawings and in particular FIGS. 1 and 2, one embodiment of an integrated extendable load floor assembly 10, according to the present invention, is illustrated in connection with a vehicle, generally indicated at 12, such as a sedan type automotive vehicle. Such vehicles 12 typically include a body 14 having a rear end 16 forming a storage or cargo area 18. The rear end 16 includes a front 19, floor 20 (FIG. 5), two sides 22 and a rear decklid 24, which define the cargo area 18. The vehicle 12 also includes the integrated extendable load floor assembly 10 disposed in and closing a longitudinal end of the cargo area 18. It should be appreciated that the decklid 24 may be removable. It should also be appreciated that, except for the integrated extendable load floor assembly 10, the vehicle 12 is conventional and known in the art.

Please replace the pending paragraph [0027] on page 6 of the Specification with the following:

As illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 9, the integrated extendable load floor assembly 10 includes a latch mechanism, generally indicated at 62, to latch the drawer 34 in a closed position relative to the rear end 16 of the vehicle 12. The latch mechanism 62 includes a striker 64